

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA AND EMANCIPATION HALL BY JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA AND EMANCIPATION HALL OF THE CAPITOL.

The rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol are authorized to be used on January 21, 2013, by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BORDER SHOOTOUT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week, border protectors were patrolling near Roma, Texas, when they spotted drug smugglers trying to move narcotics into the United States. The agents found themselves under attack from the Mexican side when narco-terrorists unleashed gunfire from the other side of the Rio Grande River. The agents returned fire in self-defense. This sounds like a scene out of a western movie, but unfortunately this is real life on the Texas border.

The legal ports of entry may seem safe, but in the hinterlands it's the Wild West. Law enforcement is outmanned, outgunned, and outfinanced. We have troops protecting the borders of other countries; why don't they protect ours? But Texas is defending itself. It has to.

On Thursday, Texas DPS unveiled the second in its fleet of six gunboats that will now patrol the Rio Grande. Why does Texas have to send its own navy to defend the border of the United States? Because the Federal Govern-

ment refuses to do its job, and someone has to protect the homeland.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1900

THE SLAUGHTER CONTINUES IN SYRIA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. The slaughter continues in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, last week I visited the head of Mission at the Syrian Embassy and delivered letters that indicated that Mr. Assad, President Assad must go and that there must be an establishment of safe houses or safe places for women and children and that, at that time, the bodies of those deceased journalists should come out and, as well, that the Red Cross and International Red Cross should be allowed in.

Then there was a protesting and suggesting it was the rebels that weren't allowing the Red Cross in. But we've now heard from a journalist that was able to get out that those journalists were actually murdered. And now, today, we're reading that the Syrian authorities Friday blocked an officially sanctioned Red Cross convoy laden with food and medical supplies from entering a devastated neighborhood in Homs 1 day after the Army overwhelmed the rebel stronghold here after a months-long siege. No rebels, just a Syrian despot, the people who want to kill their own people.

Mr. Assad needs to go. We need to get women and children safe. We need to be able to get justice for the dead journalists, and now the world needs to rise up. I look forward to the Syrian resolution passing, but something must be done.

Mr. Assad, you have to go.

CONGRATULATING THE EDEN PRAIRIE BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today to congratulate the Eden Prairie boys Eagles swimming team and diving team on winning the Minnesota State Championship recently. The Eden Prairie Eagles earned more than 100 points over their two closest competitors that tied for second place.

A key relay team of Aaron Greenberg, Maverick Hovey, Mike Solfelt and Bryce Boston also set a new State record in the 200-yard freestyle relay, and they also took home first place in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Mr. Speaker, these student athletes have absolutely seen that teamwork builds character, confidence, and self-worth. It also teaches our young people the importance of working together to

find common ground. Lessons such as playing competitively while also having respect for your opponent are lifelong and will make for absolutely strong, successful adults and future strong leaders.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Eden Prairie boys swimming and diving team.

A CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. I rise today to urge this body, the United States Congress, to join my constituents' call and meet my constituents' call for comprehensive immigration reform.

My constituents across the ideological spectrum, from those on the right, who decry the rule of law, the undermining of the state of law and the affront to our sovereignty, to those on the left, who decry the tearing apart of families and the injustices of the inhumane treatment of people in our immigration system, we are calling out to fix our broken immigration system and replace it with one that works.

There are upwards of 10 to 15 million people residing in this country illegally. We owe it to the citizens of our country, conservative, liberal, and everywhere in between, to make sure that there are close to zero people living in this country illegally and pass comprehensive immigration reform, as both President Bush and President Obama have called for on a bipartisan basis.

My constituents demand action now. I call upon Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DANIEL J. MABIN

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Daniel J. Mabin, World War II veteran, Korean War-era veteran, passed away this afternoon in Pennsylvania. Dan was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and he was the loving husband of his wife, Sheelagh. He was preceded in death by his beloved son Sean.

Dan was a member of what has been called "the Greatest Generation any society has ever produced," and he certainly earned that distinction by defending this country through two conflicts.

Sheelagh was his English war bride, whom he brought to America and settled in Levittown, Pennsylvania. When he left the service, Dan worked hard to support his growing family, often working several jobs.

Dan was someone who loved his country and cared deeply about its future. During his life, he served his community and worked to better the lives of

those around him. He imparted these values to his children, who have gone on to contribute greatly to their communities as well.

I had the honor and the pleasure of knowing Dan. He's left a lasting impression on those he touched. May his soul rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM OF WILLIAM J. "BILL" RAGGIO

(Mr. AMODEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, today, in Nevada, a funeral service is being held for William J. "Bill" Raggio.

When you think of Nevada public service in the modern era, Bill Raggio's name tops all lists. When you think of legislative leadership in the Silver State, Bill Raggio's name tops all lists. When you think of self-made individuals in Nevada, Bill Raggio's name, once again, tops all lists.

It is with sincere sorrow that I rise on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on this day to memorialize a native son of the State of Nevada, a husband, a dad, a community and statewide leader, a role model, and a friend with whom I had the honor and privilege of serving the people of Nevada for many years.

My condolences to Bill's daughters, Leslie and Tracy, and to his wife, Dale. God bless you, Bill.

WE WILL BE THERE TO DEFEND ISRAEL

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, America has no better friend on the face of the Earth than the people of Israel. Israel is the only nation on Earth that can say they've stood by America 100 percent of the time for 100 percent of their existence. And it's so important today that America, that our President, that this Congress, stand behind the people of Israel at this moment of supreme peril.

When the Iranians are building a nuclear weapon as fast as they can, that the Iranians have said they're going to use it, America must stand by Israel. There should be no doubt in the mind of every Israeli, of every friend of Israel around the world that America will stand behind her best friend 100 percent of the time, just as they have stood beside us 100 percent of the time.

We will be there for Israel to defend her safety, her security, and her prosperity against any enemy, any time, anywhere.

CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas). Under the

Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives in this world's great deliberative body. And taking it from the top, as I listened to the statements that were made tonight in the 1-minutes, I think of the gentlelady from Texas and her statement about Syria.

Now I'm not here, Mr. Speaker, to defend President Assad and Syria. In fact, I think he needs to go. And I believe that all people of the world have a right to a self-determination, and they should not live under tyranny and they should not live under despotism.

I just think back to when some of us objected that the former Speaker of the House, Mr. Speaker, and that was NANCY PELOSI, as she took over the big gavel, she set up a diplomatic tour and mission, and one of those places was Syria. And I remember the President of the United States, whom, according to the Constitution, is in control of—and I'll say according to the interpretation of the Constitution, he's Commander-in-Chief but also controls the foreign policy. It's implicit, and it's more than a two-century practice that you have to have the President of the United States as conducting foreign policy.

The President of the United States was George W. Bush who asked the then-Speaker of the House, please, do not go to Syria. Do not seek to negotiate with President Assad. Do not upset the diplomacy that's taking place between the United States and Syria, or the lack of that diplomacy.

And I think about that time when NANCY PELOSI, as Speaker, crossed that line, even though it was requested by the President of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, and the individual who was in command of all of our foreign policy, had asked her not to go.

Now we see what's going on in Syria. And I listened to the comments, and I just think that if the gentlelady from Texas had spoken up at that time when I did, it might be a little bit easier to hear tonight than this particularly was.

□ 1910

Mr. Speaker, there are many things in front of us in this Congress. Among them, of course, are economics and national defense, and our national security.

Right now, as I listened to the gentleman from Texas talk about the Israelis, and there's an event going on tonight that brings together about 12,000 people that are some Israelis, many people of Jewish origin here in the United States, and all who will be sitting there at the AIPAC dinner will be strongly supporting an independent Israel that is in control of defending themselves, the sovereignty of Israel.

I'm a strong supporter of Israel. I look at the country of Israel surrounded by its enemies, formed in 1948, and for most of my life, I've watched Israel develop and defend herself, and I've watched how they are the most stable and reliable democracy in the Middle East, and for a long time they were the only democracy in the Middle East. It would be the only place for a long time where an Arab could get a fair trial out of all of the Middle East.

Today, we're seeing the dialogue take place from Iran, not with Iran, and Israel is the stated target of Ahmadinejad. They've been working in Iran, as you know, Mr. Speaker, urgently and feverishly to develop a nuclear weapon and a means to deliver it.

When I came into this Congress and was sworn in in 2003, I sat down then with the ambassadors to the United States from Germany, France, and Great Britain, who were seeking to convince us here in the Congress that we should encourage our President to open up dialogue with the Iranians and perhaps be able to talk them out of their nuclear endeavor.

Now, that was in September of 2003 that that meeting took place over in the Rayburn building, Mr. Speaker. As I sat in on that meeting and weighed in on that meeting, I kept hearing the message come back about "open up dialogue." They wanted to open up dialogue.

So when it came around to the opportunity where I had the floor, I asked those three ambassadors from each nation, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, What is your long-term agenda here? What do you propose to do? They said, We want to open up dialogue. My answer was, If we open up dialogue with Iran, what is the next step? They said, We're only here to talk about opening up dialogue.

But if you open up dialogue with Iran, there are other steps along the way. If we just talk with them, and they refuse then to shut down their nuclear development within Iran, what are you prepared to do?"

I watched these diplomats start to get nervous. When you talk to diplomats about action, they start to get nervous. So what are you prepared to do? What do you mean? We all, I think, knew what was coming.

Well, are you prepared to go to the United Nations with us and ask for a resolution rejecting Iran's nuclear endeavor? Are you prepared to bring about sanctions? If the sanctions don't work, are you prepared to bring about a blockade? If the blockade doesn't work and there's a line in the sand that says if you violate the blockade, and if you continue on your nuclear endeavor, are you prepared then to go to the desert and enforce the very things that are being started in this dialogue here?

Of course they weren't prepared to do that. They weren't even prepared to talk about that.

Mr. Speaker, when you start down the path of diplomacy and you think